



---

235 West Chisholm Street · Alpena, MI 49707 · Phone: (989) 354-4181 · Fax: (989) 356-3999

---

August 11, 2011

Jeff Gray, Sanctuary Superintendent  
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W. Fletcher Street  
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Mr. Gray:

I write on behalf of the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to reinforce our support for the proposed boundary expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve to include waters off Alpena, Alcona, and Presque Isle Counties.

The boundary expansion will have significant positive impact on the understanding and research of our maritime heritage by enabling utilization of increased federal financial resources and greater coordination of federal, state and local resources including law enforcement to monitor and enhance maritime heritage protection. The expansion will also allow increased educational programming for the public. Residents and visitors alike in all counties will have greater awareness and understanding of the area's maritime heritage.

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary continues to have a tremendous impact on Northeast Michigan's economy. Businesses are enjoying the extra traffic from visitors to Alpena that come specifically for the shipwreck and maritime experience. Entrepreneurs have started developing ideas that help people experience our maritime history. The economic development that has been spurred from the TBNMS is just beginning but will undoubtedly grow by leaps and bounds over the next several years, making Alpena a vibrant, progressive community in Michigan!

The impacts of a boundary expansion fit directly into the Chamber's Mission of advancing the economic development and community's quality of life; therefore, we give our full support for boundary expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie A. Krawczak".

Jackie Krawczak  
Executive Director